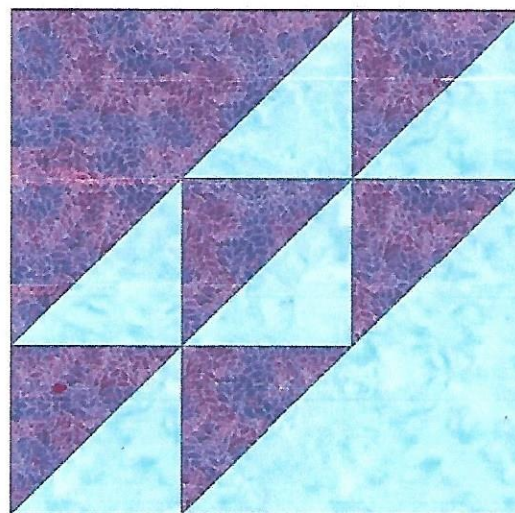




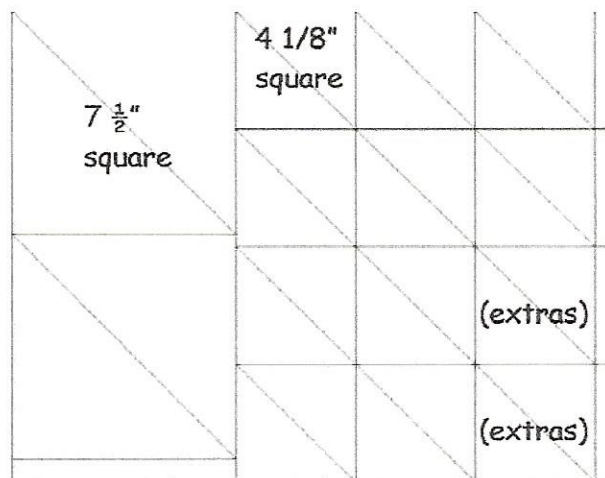
Pattern of the Month - June 2012  
**"Tortillas y Frijoles"**  
 (10" finished block)  
 by Evelyn George



This traditional block is sometimes called Northwind, or Corn and Beans. Here in the Southwest, we can call it Tortillas y Frijoles, just for fun! You could use just two colors, but it's also great for a scrap quilt -- just be sure to choose a light and a dark for each block. The diagonal motion of this block design lends itself to many interesting layouts, such as you would use for log cabin blocks. Why not use up some scraps, or dig into that fat quarter collection, and make this a great summer quilt project?

The blocks are 10" finished, so it would take 48 blocks, plus 5" borders, to make a quilt about 70" x 90". (Of course, you could make any size quilt you want.)

For a scrappy look, one option is to use fat quarters; a pair of FQ's (one light and one dark) will yield enough pieces for 4 blocks. So for a 48 block quilt, you'd need 12 light and 12 dark FQ's in assorted colors (plus extra fabric for borders, backing and binding). For quick cutting, layer one dark and one light FQ, right sides together, and cut together as shown:

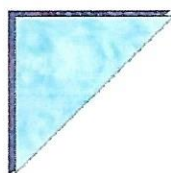


Cut two  $7 \frac{1}{2}$ " squares and cut them in half diagonally to make triangles

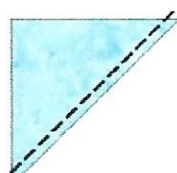
Cut 10  $4 \frac{1}{8}$ " squares and cut them in half diagonally to make triangles

(This will give you enough large and small triangles to make 4 identical blocks; if using fat quarters, there will be enough fabric to cut a few extra small triangles, if you wish, which can be used in another block.)

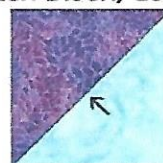
Start with the small triangles. They are already layered right sides together, so stitch 12 light/dark pairs together into triangle squares (*just 3 for each block; don't stitch all of them*):



Right sides together



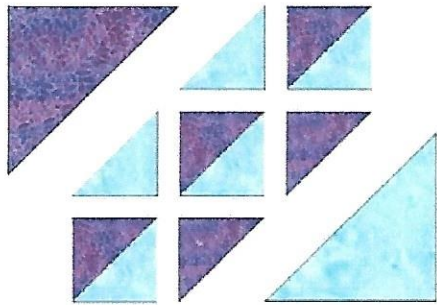
Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam



(press to dark)

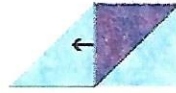
Light/dark triangle squares  
 Make 3 for each block.

Next, *separate* the remaining large and small triangles and arrange them with the pieced light/dark triangle squares, as shown below (A). For each block, use 3 light/dark triangle squares, 2 light and 2 dark small triangles, and 1 light and 1 dark large triangle. (You can trade lights or darks if you like, to make each block from a different combination.)

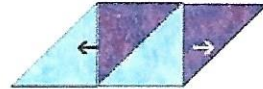


(A)

Row 1



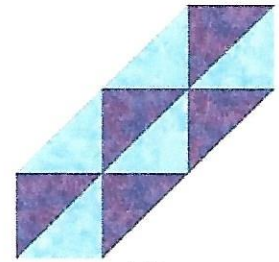
Row 2



Row 3

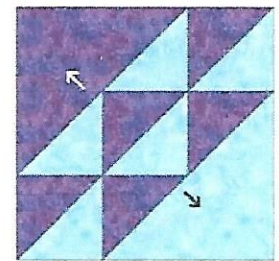


(B)



(C)

First, stitch the small triangles to the light/dark triangle squares to make rows (B), then sew those rows together (C). Finally, add the two large triangles to complete the block (D). Take care to keep all the light and dark triangles in their correct positions! (Dark triangles all point one way, light triangles point the other way.) Press in directions shown by arrows.



When you have made as many blocks as you need for the size quilt you are making, play with the layout, arranging the blocks to see what designs you can make. Take digital photos of the layouts you like, to help you decide which one to use.

(D) Tortillas y Frijoles block

You can add borders of any width you like, or leave the outer edges plain without any borders. Here are just a couple of 48 block layouts (6 across x 8 down) you could try:

